

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T GENEVA 09906

EXDIS

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON PLENARY, JUNE 29, 1978
(SALT TWO - 1797)

REFS: (A) SALT TWO-1798, (B) SALT TWO-1799, (C) SALT TWO-
1751

1. AT JUNE 29 PLENARY, MY STATEMENT DEALT WITH QUESTIONS
POSED BY SOVIET DELEGATION ON U.S.-PROPOSED CRUISE MISSILE
RANGE DEFINITION AND SUPPLEMENTARY APPROACH WHICH WOULD
PROVIDE PERCENTAGE ALLOWANCE IN EXCESS OF RANGE DEFINITION,
EXCLUDING FUEL RESERVES, FOR ALL EXCEPT ANTI-SHIP CRUISE
MISSILES (REF A).

2. SEMENOV'S STATEMENT (REF B) ADDRESSED TWO SUBJECTS,
DURATION OF PROTOCOL AND SALT THREE PRINCIPLES. HE REAF-
FIRMED SOVIET POSITION THAT PROTOCOL ENTERS INTO FORCE WITH
TREATY AND REMAINS IN FORCE FOR THREE YEARS FROM THAT DATE.
HE REVIEWED REVISED SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR PRINCIPLES TABLED
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MAY 17 (REF C) AND PRESSED FOR U.S. RESPONSE, NOTING MORE
THAN TWO MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE MOSCOW TALKS. HE QUES-
TIONED U.S. POLITICAL DETERMINATION TO WORK OUT ACCEPTABLE
JOINT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.

3. AT POST-PLENARY, IN AMPLIFYING U.S. SUPPLEMENTARY
PROPOSAL ON CRUISE MISSILE RANGE, I USED AS AN EXAMPLE

DELTA OF 40 PERCENT FOR CRUISE MISSILE LAUNCHED FROM AN AIRPLANE, WHOSE MSOR DOES NOT EXCEED 2500 KM. SEMENOV REPEATED CRITICISM OF LACK OF U.S. RESPONSE ON JOINT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.

4. HIGHLIGHTS OF OTHER POST-PLenary CONVERSATIONS:

ROWNY-BELETSKY/STARODUBOV:

BELETSKY SAID THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED AT A HIGH LEVEL THAT CRUISE MISSILES WOULD FLY NO MORE THAN THE SPECIFIED 600 KM AND 2500 KM LIMITATIONS. OUR DEFINITION, HE ADDED, WOULD PERMIT CRUISE MISSILES TO FLY DISTANCES GREATER THAN THOSE LIMITATIONS. ROWNY TOLD BELETSKY HE WAS INCORRECT, THERE HAD BEEN NO SUCH AGREEMENT ON DISTANCES FLOWN; WHAT WAS AGREED WAS THAT LIMITATIONS BE SET AT 600 KM AND 2500 KM BEYOND WHICH TARGETS COULD NOT BE ENGAGED.

5. JOHNSON/SHCHUKIN:

SHCHUKIN THROUGH EXAMPLES SHOWED THAT HE HAD A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. APPROACH TO CRUISE MISSILE RANGE DEFINITION, BUT MAINTAINED THAT VERIFICATION WOULD STILL BE VERY DIFFICULT. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. APPROACH TO CRUISE MISSILE RANGE, IF APPLIED TO THE BACKFIRE, WOULD CLEARLY SHOW THAT THE BACKFIRE WAS NOT AN INTERCONTINENTAL HEAVY BOMBER.

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6. SENATOR CHURCH/PEREZ-KARPOV/SMOLIN:

SENATOR CHURCH STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF DATA BASE IN SENATE RATIFICATION PROCESS AND CONGRATULATED NEGOTIATORS ON AGREEING TO EXCHANGE DATA. IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR'S QUESTION, KARPOV INDICATED THAT CRUISE MISSILE ISSUES, AND PROVISIONS ON HEAVY BOMBERS AND NEW TYPES OF ICBM'S WERE THREE MOST IMPORTANT OUTSTANDING ISSUES. JOINT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES ALSO IMPORTANT BUT NOT AS MUCH SO AS THREE ISSUES CITED. SENATOR CHURCH COMMENTED THAT PASSAGE OF PANAMA CANAL TREATY HAD BEEN IMPEDED BECAUSE OF QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT CONFORMITY OF ENGLISH AND SPANISH TEXTS, AND INDICATED HIS DESIRE THAT THIS KIND OF QUESTION NOT TROUBLE SENATE CONSIDERATION OF SALT AGREEMENTS.

7. AT LUNCHEON HOSTED BY SEMENOV FOLLOWING THE PLENARY, IN RESPONSE TO SEMENOV QUESTION REGARDING STATUS OF SALT IN THE SENATE, SENATOR CHURCH TOLD SEMENOV THAT FOR "PERFECT TIMING," AND SPEAKING AS THE PROSPECTIVE FLOOR LEADER OF THE SALT TREATY, THE TREATY SHOULD BE SIGNED BEFORE THE END OF 1978 BUT AFTER THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. CHURCH EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT EARLIER SIGNATURE WOULD CAUSE CAMPAIGNING SENATORS TO TAKE POSITIONS ON TREATY

WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CHANGE SUBSEQUENTLY.

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8. NEXT PLENARY JULY 6, 1978. EARLE.

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